

## September 7th, 2025 Lectionary Notes

### The Readings on This Day

\*\*\*Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)

**Sunday, September 4–10**

### Lectionary 23

We proceed through Luke—this week an uncharacteristically harsh message to balance Luke’s continual theme of forgiveness. It is good that after hearing these words, we can come to the table for strength to “carry the cross.”

#### [Deuteronomy 30:15-20](#)

This passage is set next to Luke’s call to radical discipleship because also Moses anticipates that faithfulness to the covenant will be difficult. We can choose blessings, or we can choose curses. According to the Deuteronomist, God cannot be expected to bless those who chose other commitments. As the community of faith, we are part of the blessing that God gives to one another.

#### [The Psalm for the Day](#)

Having heard Moses’ invitation for us to choose life, we say Yes by singing together [Psalm 1](#). We follow God’s teaching and so are like a tree of life. We thrive thanks to the streams of water of baptism. Rather than reproduce the text of this psalm in a worship folder, this Sunday use *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 339, so that the illustration can enhance your prayer.

#### [Philemon 1:1-21](#)

Reading Philemon makes clear that Christian ethics has always been debated: Paul is asking that Onesimus be treated now as a brother, not merely a slave; and yet the household codes tell slaves and masters to keep to their places. Thus on many issues both sides of ethical disputes can find some support in the Bible. We hear Paul’s counsel for Christians to live in compassion to others and to enact the familial love given them in baptism. This is the only place in the three-year lectionary that appoints Philemon.

#### [Luke 14:25-33](#)

The text presents the homiletical challenge of taking Jesus’ words seriously without taking them literally. The charge to hate everyone and even life itself stands next to the call to love one another (Luke 10:27), and despite this command to give up all our possessions, in the Acts of the Apostles, Luke lauds wealthy Christians for their support of the community. Here Luke’s repeated theme, that God forgives, is shown to have a cost. If there was no cost, if forgiveness is totally free, why did Jesus have to die? When we come forward for holy communion, we are indeed following Jesus and his cross.

